

5 [0058] A composition and method for the removal of scale from a substrate are disclosed.

water. The composition, which is circulated throughout the boiler to contact the interior surfaces, such as the boiler tubes, includes a chelating agent having at least two carboxylic acid functional groups, preferably citric acid. The composition also includes an alkali metal hydroxide basic agent. The preferred alkali metal hydroxides are either potassium or sodium hydroxide. The basic agent establishes an overall basic pH of from 7 to 14 in the composition to enable precipitation of the metal atoms from the composition after interaction with the chelating agent.